

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 08039 261123 Z

45

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SUBJECT: GOJ AND MEDIA REACTIONS TO NIXON- BREZHNEV SUMMIT

REF: TOKYO 7970

SUMMARY: IN BRIEF COMMENTS TO DIET, PRIMIN TANAKA AND FONMIN OHIRA WELCOMED SUMMIT CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORLD PEACE AND SAW NO CAUSE TO ALTER GOJ SECURITY POLICIES. EDITORIAL RE-ACTIONS EXPRESS HOPE AND EXPECTATION THAT SUMMIT AGREEMENTS WILL LEAD TO TOTAL BAN ON NUCLEAR TESTING AND FURTHER PROGRESS IN DISARMAMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN DIET LOWER HOUSE CABINET COMMITTEE JUNE 26, PRIMIN TANAKA, RESPONDING BRIEFLY TO QUESTION CONCERNING NIXON- BREZHENEV AGREEMENT ON AVOIDING NUCLEAR WAR, STATED THAT ALTHOUGH SEVERAL STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO ACHIEVE WORLD PEACE IN AFTERMATH OF WORLD WAR II, RECENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND BREZHENEV CONSTITUTED GREAT STEP FORWARD TOWARD PEACE AND SECURITY. ON SAME DAY, IN APPEARANCE BEFORE UPPER HOUSE FORIGN POLICY COMMITTEE, FONMIN OHIRA RESPONDED TO OPPOSITION QUESTIONS WHICH SOUGHT TO SEE SUMMIT AGREEMENTS AS LESSENING NEED UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 08039 261123 Z

FOR MST, SPECIFICALLY US NUCLEAR DETERRENT. OHIRA ARGUED THAT SIGNIFICANCE OF AGREEMENTS LAY IN REAFFIRMATION OF GROWING TRUST BETWEEN US AND USSR, WHICH IS WELCOME DEVELOPMENT FOR WORLD AND JAPAN, BUT THEY DID NOT ADD ANY NEW FACTOR TO FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AS EMBODIED, FOR EXAMPLE, IN ART. 51 ON UN CHARTER. OHIRA THEREFORE CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS NO REASON FOR GOJ TO REASSESS OR RECONSIDER ITS SECURITY POLICIES. IN SEPARATE COMMENT ON SUMMIT COMMENCEMENT, OHIRA WELCOMED CLOSER TIES BETWEEN US AND USSR AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THESE IMPROVED RELATIONS WOULD HAVE FAVORABLE EFFECTS IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SECURITY ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

2. MEANWHILE, EARLY EDITORIAL COMMENT FOCUSES ON PRINCIPLES FOR NEGOTIATING SALT II AND ON AGREEMENT TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR. ON LATTER SUBJECT, JUNE 24 ASAHI STRESSED US AND USSR COMMITMENT TO REFRAIN FROM USE OF FORCE, NOT ONLY TO SOLIDIFY QTE NON- NUCLEAR WAR OATH UNQUOTE BUT TO AVOID SITUATION IN WHICH EITHER SIDE WOULD BE TEMPTED TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WHILE APPROVING CURB ON THREATS OR USE OF FORCE WITH THIRD NATIONS, ASAHI ASKED RHETORICALLY IF THIS COMMITMENT MIGHT NOT PROMPT US AND USSR TO INTERVENE IN DISPUTES WITH THIRD NATIONS IN CAPACITY OF QTE SUPER- BIG NUCLEAR NATIONS UNQUOTE. ASAHI ALSO FORSAW POSSIBLE REACTION FROM OTHER NUCLEAR POWERS-- CHINA AND FRANCE-- WHICH MIGHT BE PROMPTED TO STRENGTHEN THEIR OWN NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT, IN THIS CONNECTION, ASAHI CITED RUMOR THAT DR. KISSINGER HAD DISCUSSED AGREEMENT IN ADVANCE WITH PRC REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON. ASAHI CONCLUDED IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO SEEK ADHERENCE TO AGREEMENT BY OTHER NUCLEAR POWERS.

3. ON PRINCIPLES FOR SALT II, BOTH TOKYO SHINBUN AND ASAHI EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR VERIFICATION PROCEDURES AND METHODS, BOTH EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE THAT PRINCIPLES AGREED AT SUMMIT WILL LEAD BEYOND US - SOVIET COOPERATION TO MUCH FURTHER PROGRESS IN NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE QUALITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON NUCLEAR ARMS, ASAHI ALSO CALLED FOR TOTAL BAN ON NUCLEAR TESTS.

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TOKYO 08039 261123 Z

4. COMMENT. MEDIA COVERAGE CONTINUED TO BE OBJECTIVE AND FACTUAL THROUGH CONCLUSION OF BREZHNEV VISIT. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS SO FAR BEEN RESTRICTED TO AGREEMENTS CONCERNING NUCLEAR WAR AND DISARMAMENT, TO WHICH REACTION HAS BEEN MEASURE AND QUITE POSITIVE.

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